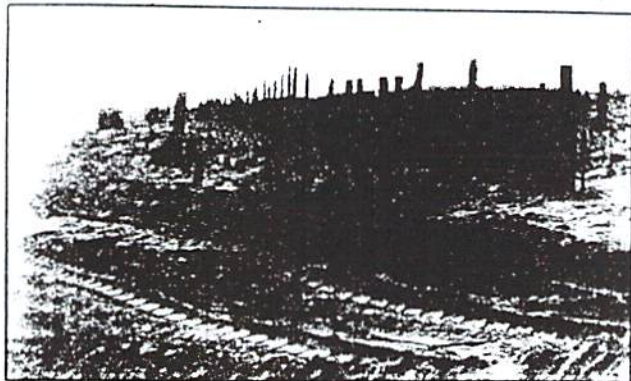


# Weathering the storm



Staff photo/Sarah Love

**Beach clean-up** — The Beach Reservation has already replaced miles of snow fencing knocked down or destroyed by a nor'easter two weeks ago.

## Gurnet Road residents: we need town's help

By Sarah Love  
MPG Newspapers

DUXBURY — Gurnet Road area residents at last Thursday's public meeting said the town hasn't been much help in the storm recovery process.

Selectmen voted two to one last Monday not to pay to place disposal containers on Gurnet Road and Ocean Road North and South.

With department of public works director Walter Tonaszuck estimating the cost of the disposal at between \$50,000 and \$100,000, selectmen chairman Patricia Dowd said the town would not be

able to recoup its losses.

Dowd said the decision was made because residents "would most likely be reimbursed" through flood insurance.

But audience members said she was wrong. One Ocean Road North resident said he had two insurance adjustors view his damaged property and both said flood insurance would cover only the perimeter of the structure and did not cover the yard.

"We all have budgets, too," he said, "and part of our budget is to pay the town taxes. I think a little

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## 'We almost got killed'

By Sarah Love  
MPG Newspapers

DUXBURY — Steve Bowden lives in a home with boarded and taped windows. It's dark, cold and bare. Still, Bowden says he wouldn't want to live anywhere but on the coastline.

Last weekend, as another ocean storm threatened his beachfront home, Bowden was prepared to ride it out with his dog and without telephone, electricity or heat. Fortunately, the storm didn't live up to its advance billing.

The Gurnet Road resident lives with his brother Frank. They estimate the damage from the Halloween eve nor'easter at \$50,000.

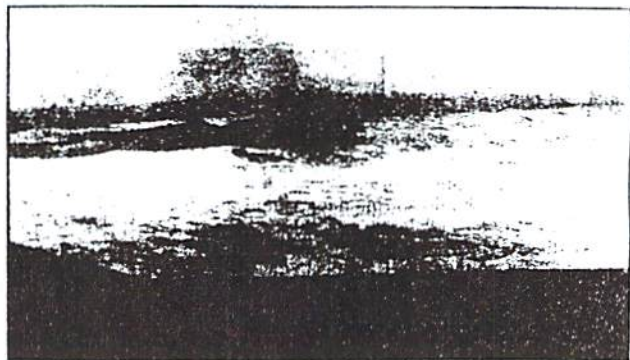
On Wednesday, Oct. 30, waves burst into their kitchen. Those waves carried with them the railroad ties that once outlined their cobblestone walk, the lawn and pieces of lumber that were probably once a neighbor's home.

The insurance adjustor determined there was four feet of water in the front room, which faces the seawall, when the tides reached their highest point.

The cellar is under six feet of sand and rocks.

The only sign of what has been the Bowden's home since 1977 is a second floor room, 20 feet above sea level, and the

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Staff photo/Sarah Love

**A view from above** — The ocean looked choppy from the second floor of Steve Bowden's home Saturday, but not as fierce as it looked one week earlier.

## ■ Clean-up

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consideration to clean up Gurnet Road would be nice."

The town did place two 30-cubic yard disposal containers at the transfer station and allowed flexibility in allowing non-stickered pick up trucks and car hitched trailers to dump storm debris of any size.

Town manager Thomas Groux said residents must get permission from the department of public works to dump without a sticker and recommended that be done on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday because the town can not dispose of the debris on weekends.

Commercial vehicles will be charged.

Tonaszuck said the town is paying \$125 to haul the debris dumpsters and \$55 per ton.

The Gurnet area homeowners questioned the town's expenditure of \$90,000 for Hurricane Bob clean up (75 percent will be paid by the federal government and 12.5 percent by the state) and its unwillingness to spend to help clean up last week's nameless storm, which caused more coastal damage than Bob.

Groux said the town's hurricane expenses resulted from tree and debris removal from public streets and property. He said only one private residence was given help, when a tree on town property fell on the roof.

Groux also said that an area behind Alden school was designated to accept debris and no dumpsters were placed in heavily damaged areas after Hurricane Bob.

Whether the town will be able to help more directly, Groux said, will be known when the federal and state disaster relief figures are known. President Bush did declare the area a disaster area.

### Permit process

Zoning board of appeals chairman Frederic Clifford said the board will give more permitting power to building inspector Kevin McDonald in order to expedite repairs.

Emergency certificates may be given for repair of structures not more than 50 percent damaged. The certificates must be applied for by Dec. 30 and work must be completed by Feb. 29.

McDonald will be able to grant permits, without the normal appeals process, to residents who are not making structural changes, but who are simply repairing.

McDonald said he will be going to every house in the area again to meet with contractors, engineers and architects to explain the processes.

Residents do not have to bring their damaged homes up to 1991 standards, conservation administrator Joseph Grady said, because the land is considered barrier beach.

"But if you're starting from scratch you do have to comply" with today's standards, he said.

McDonald has condemned 10 homes in the area and expects to certify at least two more at total losses, he said.

Fifty-two homes suffered major structural damage and the majority of them will need completely new foundations, he said in a Nov. 4 memo.

A residence is considered unsafe "if the structure is dangerous to life or limb."

Some he recommended con-





Staff photo/Sarah Love

**A strong foundation** — Only a foundation remains at this address on Ocean Road North.

demning because of the amount of money for repairs. No primary homes were condemned.

### Electricity cautions

Commonwealth Electric engineer Kevin Black asked residents not to use generators if their electrical power has been disconnected.

Residents, he said, will know if it is safe to have their electric-

ity turned back on after a wire inspector has been through the building. Residents should then have the inspector call and the power will be hooked up within 24 hours of the call, Black said.

Temporary power will be made available to lots where houses are being demolished and electricity is needed to clear the lot. For temporary power, call 1-800-642-7070.

## Fixing the roof

DUXBURY — The beach reservation's contractor has already started replacing the miles of snow fencing necessary to rebuild the sand dunes washed flat in the nor'easter two weeks ago.

At least four miles of fencing, with double rows in some spots, will be necessary to rebuild the dunes at Duxbury Beach.

"They've done an unbelievable job," harbormaster Donald Beers said. "Who would have ever believed they could put that back so quickly?"

The contractor, Fred Nava, who has been in charge of the entire operation, said goodbye to the army corps of engineer's and the town department of public works machinery last Wednesday. He said 70 to 80 percent of the dunes have been pushed back into place.

But the road ahead is long, and Nava said it would be at least two years until the beach looks like it did just 15 days ago.

"It took years, from the '70s, to get it the way it was. But we had gained so much. It will take less time to replace it, he said.

Luckily, this weekend's heavy winds, Nava said, did more good than harm. Because the beach is repairing itself, winter berms, or rock ledges left by winter tides, have begun to build up and protect the dunes.

Nava said Monday the beach road is "passable" and open to Gurnet and Saquish residents who need to be at their homes.

"We're still pecking away at it day by day," Nava said.

The beach will reopen, he said, when the reservation decides traffic can be controlled. Once a track is made in the wrong place everyone else follows, he said.

"We have a patient here who in some areas is wounded and in others is in intensive care," Beers said. "We'll give access back in stages."